

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 27, 30-32, 35-38 and 41-43 are pending in this application.

Claims 27-28, 31-32, 36-39 and 41-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,945 issued to Tsuji et al (hereinafter referred to as "Tsuji").

Claims 30 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being considered unpatentable over Tsuji in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,378 issued to Olson et al (hereinafter referred to as "Olson").

Claims 29, 34 and 40 have been indicated to have allowable subject matter.

Claims 27, 32 and 38 have been amended.

Claims 28-29, 33-34 and 39-40 have been cancelled.

No claims have been added.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection of Claims 27-28, 31-32, 36-39 and 41-43

The Examiner has rejected claims 27-28, 31-32, 36-39 and 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being considered to be anticipated by Tsuji. Applicant has cancelled claims 28 and 39, rendering this rejection moot with regard to these claims.

Regarding claims 27, 32 and 38, Applicant has amended claims 27, 32 and 38 to incorporate the limitations recited in claims 29, 34 and 40, respectively, which the Examiner has indicated to have allowable subject matter. With these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 27, 32 and 38 are patentably distinguished over Tsuji.

Regarding claims 31, 36-37 and 41-43, these claims depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 27, 32 and 38 depends from independent

claim 27, 32 and 38, which Applicant has asserted are patentably distinguished over Tsuji, and therefore, Applicant further respectfully submits that claims 31, 36-37 and 41-43 are also patentably distinguished over Tsuji and are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claim 30 and 35

The Examiner has rejected claims 30 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being considered to be unpatentable over Tsuji in view of Olson.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 30 and 35 depend from independent claims 27 and 32, respectfully, and therefore, incorporate all of the limitations of their respective base claims, both of which Applicant has previously asserted are patentably distinguished over Tsuji.

For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 30 and 35 are patentably distinguished over any possible combination of Tsuji and Olson and are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter and Objection to Claims 29, 34 and 40

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 29, 34 and 40 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant has cancelled claims 29, 34 and 40, and as discussed, above, Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claims 29, 34 and 40 into independent claims 27, 32 and 38.

Condition for Allowance

Applicant respectfully submits that, all rejections have been overcome and the present application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any additional charges or shortages related to the present communication, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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